(f) and (g). The concerned State authorities have launched prosecutions and some arrests have also been made.

National Waterway Between Patna and Allahabad

1339. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government till date has not been able to open National Waterway for traffic between Patna and Allahabad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which this waterway will be opened?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c). During high water period, the waterway between Patna and Allahabad is open for traffic. However, in order to make it navigable round the year, bed regulation activities, such as, dredging, bandalling and provision of terminal facilities are proposed to be included during the 9th Five Year Plan, phasing of which would depend on growth of cargo and availability of funds.

Research Centre Nalanda

1340. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the objectives with which Mahavihar and Postgraduate Research Centre (Snatkotar Anusandhan Kendra) was set up at Nalanda and whether these objectives are being achieved;

(b) the reasons for delay on the part of the Central education department in taking over this research centre located at such a place of pride; and

(c) the details of the proposal under consideration to directly monitor the development activities at this research centre?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b). Nav Nalanda Mahavihar (NNM), an Institute dedicated to the post graduate studies and research in Pali language and literature and Buddhology, was established by the State Government of Bihar in 1951 with a view to reviving some of the past glory of the ancient University of Nalanda. In 1990, the Government of Bihar decided to hand over the NNM to the Government of India (Department of Culture). This decision was taken keeping in view the international character of the Institute as also to facilitate its all round development. Consequent upon this decision, Government of India (Department of Culture) prepared Memorandum of Association, Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the Nav Nalanda Mahavihar. After completing the legal and administrative formalities, the NNM was taken over by the Government of India vide Resolution dated 7-12-1993. The Institute was registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act on 25-2-1994.

(c) According to the new dispensation, the Nav Nalanda Mahavihar is an autonomous society fully funded by the Government of India (Department of Culture). A Director has been appointed to manage the affairs of the Institute. The Academic Council and the Finance Committee of the Society have also been constituted.

[English]

Sports Institutions

1341. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sports institutions functioning/ proposed to be opened in the country to encourage sports for women;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the sites have been identified for new institutions, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(d) the funds allocated and spent during the last three years, institution-wise; and

(e) the efforts being made to find out new talents, discipline-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) Sports Authority of India (SAI) under its various schemes encourages Sports among Women. Apart from National Sports Talent contest, SAI training Centres and Special Area Games (SAG) schemes which promote sports among Women also, the following schemes are being implemented exclusively for Women :-

(i) **National Sports Festival for Women**

This Festival is held every year and involves holding of lower level competitions (Block, Distt. and State level) by the States/UTs which are followed by National level competitions.

(ii) **Sports Talent Search Scholarship Scheme**

Under this Scheme, scholarships are awarded to Women National champions and to women having Masters Degree in physical education doing SAI's NIS Diploma/M.Phil/ Ph.D.

(iii) **Promotion of Sports and physical Education amongst women**

Under the Scheme, Special Certificate